

Carices Wanted.

I desire to obtain live roots of all the Carices, especially at present of *C. bullata*, *C. glaucodea*, *C. formosa* and *C. debilis*.

Agricultural College, Mich.

L. H. BAILEY, JR.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

British Fungi (Hymenomyces). By the Rev. John Stevenson. Vol. I., *Agaricus-Bolbitius*. Edinburgh: Wm. Blackwood & Sons, 1866. pp. 372. Large 12mo. Illust.

It is two years since the preliminary notice of this work was received. The part before us bears out the high estimate then given it (*BOT. GAZ.*, 1884, p. 116), and shows that the interval has been well used to perfect it in many ways.

The complete work will embrace a second volume. The present one is mostly filled with the genus *Agaricus*, which covers 346 pages, and includes 782 species. The few remaining pages give 33 species of *Coprinus* and 7 species of *Bolbitius*.

The order and number of the species are essentially the same as given by M. C. Cooke in his *Handbook*, a revised edition of which is now publishing as a supplement to *Grevillea*. Both works are founded upon the classic writings of Fries, and it is in the translation and interpretation of these that the present work aims to be superior to anything yet offered to the public. There are other features which will also strongly commend themselves. The descriptions of the species have been made more comprehensive, with the diagnostic characters indicated by italics, the convenient method used for flowering plants. To the descriptions are appended ample notes giving additional items drawn from careful observations, and also comparisons between different species which must prove of especial service in determining material. There can be no doubt of the value of good measurements, and it is a pleasure to find that these have been supplied for nearly every species. The size of the spores is given in mikros, and the authority for each measurement is appended. When authorities differ the user has the advantage of independent data.

The illustrations scattered through the text—thirty-nine for this volume—are drawn to scale, and are as good as could be expected. They are by W. G. Smith; their accuracy can not be questioned.

The large number of British species, which are also found in this country, makes the publication almost as great a boon to American collectors as to their fortunate associates across the water. It is a thoroughly satisfactory handbook, being the result of superior literary knowledge and extensive practical and critical acquaintance with the plants. A number of the first mycologists of England have taken active part in its preparation, including the Rev. M. J. Berkeley. We do not doubt that its sale in this country will be sufficient to aid materially in making it evident to the publishers that such a work is demanded and appreciated.

Handbook of Mosses, with an account of their structure, classification, geographical distribution and habitats. By James E. Bagnall, A. L. S. London: Swan Sonnenschein, Le Bas & Lowrey. 12°. pp. vii. 96. 1886.

This little book is not so pretentious as its title, and will serve a good purpose in enlightening beginners as to how and where to collect mosses, and how to prepare them for permanent preservation and study. The book is specially intended for young collectors and to them it will be helpful. They should be